

Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 8:31 AM
To: NIEHS ICCVAM
Subject: Concerning the ICCVAM

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am writing to you to express my desire to see the United States become the world leader in phasing out useless animal testing. It has come to my knowledge that the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) has taken the incomprehensible position that, regardless of the result of a non-animal test, "confirmatory" testing should be carried out on animals. Instead, the ICCVAM should take the time to address the limitations of industrial animal testing and eventually phase them out in favor of alternative methods. ICCVAM's background-review documents should clearly address the limitations of the current animal test for eye irritation, including its subjectivity, reproducibility, and its over- and under-prediction rate. ICCVAM should not presume to "validate" a non-animal method against an animal test that has never been properly validated itself. I thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to ready my correspondence.

Sincerely,
Leah Mickens